

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02074 251554Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 EURE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 L-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /086 W

----- 051218

O P 251535Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6576

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR

SUBJ: BALTIC REFUGEE HELD BY FINLAND

REF: HELSINKI 2041; GENEVA 3816; STATE 143931

1. ACTING CHIEF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT FINNISH FONOFF
(KORHONEN) INFORMED US THIS AFTERNOON THAT FONOFF WOULD
ISSUE PRESS COMMUNIQUE AT 7:00 P.M. THIS EVENING
CONCERNING THE VIKTOR SCHNEIDER CASE.

2. COMMUNIQUE WILL SET FORTH CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH
WHICH SCHNEIDER CAME UNDER FINNISH CUSTODY; FACT THAT
UNHCR BECAME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE; FACT THAT
GOF DECIDED SCHNEIDER WAS ENTITLED TO "REFUGEE STATUS"
UNDER UN REFUGEE CONVENTION OF 1951; FACT THAT SCHNEIDER
ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN FINLAND; FACT THAT SCHNEIDER WAS
TURNED OVER TO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE AND ON JULY 25 LEFT
FINLAND WITH FINNISH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR RESETTLEMENT
BY UNHCR.

3. KORHONEN SAID THAT GOF DID NOT JUDE ON CITIZENSHIP
OF SCHNEIDER (WHETHER HE WAS ETHNIC GERMAN OR NOT); ALSO
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02074 251554Z

THAT SCHNEIDER HAD NOT RPT NOT LEFT FINLAND EN ROUTE TO

FRG. AS FAR AS GOF IS CONCERNED THIS IS NOW A "CLOSED CASE." COMMUNIQUE BEING CABLED SEPARATELY.

4. COMMENT: TWO TOP NEWSPAPERS (INDEPENDENT HELSINGIN SANOMAT AND CONSERVATIVE UUSI SUOMI) TOOK SCHNEIDER AFFAIR TO ITS EDITORIAL PAGES TODAY STRESSING UN REFUGEE CONVENTION ANGLE OF CASE AND CITING U.S. EMBASSY'S INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. UNHCR SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED FOR THE QUICK AND EFFECTIVE ACTION IT TOOK IN THIS CASE. FACT THAT EMBASSY ON INSTRUCTIONS MADE TIMELY REPRESENTATION ON "HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS IN LINE WITH UN CONVENTION ON REFUGEES" VIEWED HERE AS BEING RIGHT MOVE AT RIGHT TIME AND SALUTARY TO U.S. IMAGE.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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